

The Baptist Record

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

New hymnal in pipeline at LifeWay

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Singing is an integral part of a church service, but the hymns and worship songs are much more than words and music. They are teaching tools that help a group of believers grow in their relationship with Christ and His church.

With this in mind, LifeWay Worship, the music area of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, gathered a group of theologians on the campus of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth on October 1 to begin a theological review of songs to be included in the 2008 Baptist Hymnal.

Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship and former minister of music at Broadmoor Church, Madison, said the group will be looking at every song currently selected for the new Baptist Hymnal, making certain each one is doctrinally and theologically sound.

"We began our look at the hymns and songs with the new additions to the Baptist Hymnal," Harland said. "The new hymnal will have about 650 songs included, and about 300 of these songs will be new ones to our hymnal. Of these 300, about 200 have been published in other hymnals and about 100 are brand-new hymns and songs that haven't been published in any hymnal before."

Because the theology of the hymns and songs is so critical, the group was deliberately made up of theologians and musician/theologians.

Jon Duncan, state music director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, served as committee leader of the summit. Other participants were:

- Ron Owen, speaker/author/songwriter/musician, Bella Vista, Ar.

- Kenneth Barker, editor of the NIV Study Bible, Lewisville, Tx.

- Stephen Johnson, dean of the school of music at Southwestern Seminary.

- David Nelson, vice president for academic administration, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

- T.W. Hunt, author and retired professor of music and missions at Southwestern Seminary, Spring, Tx.

- Brent Taylor, pastor of First Church, Carrollton, Tx.

- Alan Day, pastor of First Church, Edmond, Ok., and former pastor of First Church, McComb.

- Hayes Wicker, pastor of First Church, Naples, Fl., was unable to attend the meeting but will be working as a part of the 12-member group.

Representing LifeWay at the summit were Harland; Terry Terry, manager of LifeWay Worship publishing and operations; and Greg Nelson, Worship Project creative director.

The Baptist Hymnal is one part of The Worship Project, a new set of resources for worship leaders being developed by LifeWay. The goal is to meet the worship needs of churches by coupling the updated hymnal with modern technology.

The endeavor consists of two components, the first being a downloadable audio hymn and worship song repository from which the updated hardbound Baptist Hymnal will be drawn. The second part will be a worship planner available through an online portal at www.lifewayworship.com.

Harlan said that during the coming months, the summit participants will go

over the songs scheduled to be in the Baptist Hymnal, checking each one verse by verse to ensure its doctrine and theological soundness.

- Does the hymn speak biblically of God?
- Is it God-honoring?
- Does the hymn present a biblical view of man?
- Does the song help us to cover the depth and breadth of our theology?
- Does the hymn call us to true discipleship, service, repentance, witness, missions and devotion?
- Does the hymn speak biblically of salvation?
- Does it engage the whole person — allowing a person to express his deepest feelings?
- Does the hymn emphasize that Christ is the Christian's Lord, Master and King? (the idea of total submission)
- Does the hymn present an Americanized/Westernized gospel? (civil religion)
- Is there a balance with corporate and individual response in worship? (immanence and transcendence)
- Does the hymn speak biblically about the church, the body of Christ?

"When we get all the reports back, we can feel certain that each entry in the Baptist Hymnal will be beneficial and trustworthy for our congregations," Harland said.

For more information on The Worship Project, go to www.lifewayworship.com.

Hymnal leader: effort should be 'Christ-centered'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Jon Duncan, state music director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, led the theological review process for the 2008 Baptist Hymnal during an Oct. 1 summit at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. After the sessions attended by 11 of the 12 committee members, Duncan answered the following questions about the theological impact of hymns:

Q: What is your responsibility in leading the review process for the new Baptist Hymnal?

A: My role is to keep us honed in on the larger picture, which brings us to unity, rather than to feature on the distinctives of each individual's theological tilt. This concord (two or more entities finding agreement) has served the process well. I have never worked with a finer group of leaders in terms of their willingness to surrender preferences for the sake of purpose. I believe it is a model for Southern Baptists.

Q: Why be so particular/precise about the theology in the hymns?

A: The hymnal is more than a "song book" to meet a utilitarian need for the congregants. This hymnal, as with past Baptist Hymnals, serves many functions, including providing a historical document of doctrinal beliefs of the family of faith known as Baptists. Our major concern is that the hymnal represents a truly "Christocentric" (Christ-centered) and Trinitarian theology.

Q: How can good theology in hymns help a congregation of believers grow?

A: Baptists have always been known for their high view of Scripture, local autonomy, priesthood of believer, Trinitarian theology, and salvation through Christ alone. In pluralistic times such as these, it is more vital than ever that our hymnal presents a clear theology around which Baptists can wrap their arms. Some may view this as "narrow" or "lacking" in terms of cultural progressiveness, but we feel an obligation to remain faithful to our core doctrinal beliefs.

Q: How do hymns serve as a means to evangelism and discipleship?

A: According to Colossians 3:16, psalms, hymns and spiritual songs strengthen the body of Christ to fulfill its mission. Our singing has multiple dimensions. First and foremost, it allows us to express our praise to God through the relationship we have with the Son and in the power of the Spirit. The admonition of [the apostle] Paul also emphasizes that our singing helps us to internalize our message within the heart.

I believe that, along with most Baptists, my theology was shaped through the singing of hymns. Although I didn't understand everything I was singing as a young boy, the theological deposits being made during these formative years provided anchors for my life. As a result, the teaching impact through singing our hymns cannot be understated.

In addition, true worship and discipleship makes a powerful impact on our evangelism. All three components are cyclical. The hymnal assists us by internalizing our Kingdom responsibility to carry out the Great Commission — all to the glory of God.



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An insatiable demand for victims

As he entered the Lafayette County Courthouse in Oxford on Monday of this week, Daniel Reed Cummings looked for all the world like a clean-cut college kid on his way to church. His suit dapper and his haircut sharp, he didn't look like someone who was facing a capital murder trial for dragging a University of Mississippi police officer to death with his vehicle during an alcohol- and drug-induced stupor.

Yet there he was, facing Officer Robert Langley's grieving family as well as his own heartbroken kin, pleading guilty to a reduced charge of culpable negligent manslaughter before Lafayette County Circuit Judge Andrew Howarth and receiving in return the maximum sentence of 20 years.

Under state law, Cummings will serve at least 85% of his sentence — 17 years — before he can be considered for parole from the Mississippi penal system. Twenty years old at the time of Langley's death,

Cummings will be approaching middle age when that time comes. If he had been convicted of capital murder as originally charged, the sentence would have been life without parole.

It will be difficult for some people to feel sorry for Cummings when they consider the circumstances that led to his Monday court appearance. On October 21, 2006, Langley was on patrol when he pulled over Cummings for speeding. At some point during the stop, Langley reached into Cummings' vehicle through the driver's window and Cummings hit the gas.

Langley, a National Guardsman and married father of four, was dragged about 200 yards and suffered a severe head injury. He died some time later after being airlifted to Regional Medical Center in Memphis.

"TO BE HONEST, I CAN'T SEE A THING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE, SIR. IT'S STILL PRETTY MUCH UP TO YOU. SCARY, ISN'T IT?"



Toxicology tests conducted on Cummings shortly after the incident indicated there were alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine in his system. He was held without bond in the Lafayette County Jail until his court appearance on Monday.

As Cummings heads to prison, Langley's family is left to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives and move on. News reports indicate that it was Langley's family who asked the district attorney not to seek the death penalty, and that they went along with Monday's guilty plea to a reduced charge.

For their part, Cummings' family reminisces about the athletic career of their strapping, 6'3" son and his selection not so long ago as Mr. Houston Middle School in

Germantown, Tn. They remember Dan at church camp as a youngster and when he achieved his long held goal of becoming an Ole Miss student, like his father before him.

So much is gone from both families, never to be recovered. Alcohol, as is almost always the case, is at the root of this tragedy.

Sure, there were other drugs listed in Cummings' toxicology reports, but alcohol was the legal drug listed in the report. If Cummings' descent into drug abuse followed the typical path, he started with alcohol as the gateway drug and gradually worked his way up to the other drugs. It is virtually unheard of for a young person to start with cocaine — or even marijuana — and then discover alcohol. It just doesn't happen that way.

The seemingly eternal question remains to be answered in any rational way: When will we stop sacrificing people to the god of alcohol?

Alcohol has an insatiable demand for victims. Think about the fact that that every drop of hard liquor sold in Mississippi passes through the state's liquor warehouse, because the State of Mississippi is the only legal wholesaler of hard liquor. That means every drop of hard liquor offered for sale in this state is sold by you and me, because we are the government.

That also means that each of us in a special, perverse way, is responsible for the death of Officer Langley, the lifelong bereavement of his wife and children, and the pain inflicted on the Cummings family. Yet they are only a few of the many thousands of innocent victims claimed by alcohol in our state each year — all in our name.

Are you comfortable, knowing that?

NOBTS to offer bivocational music course in Miss.

October 22 begins the second of eight courses at nine locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary. The course, titled Worship Planning, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations:

- Broadmoor Church, Madison — beginning October 22 (7-9 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher (601) 924-1233.

- First Church, Booneville — beginning October 23 (7-9 p.m.). LuAnne Ford, teacher (662) 728-6272.

- Northcrest Church, Meridian — beginning October 15 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Buddy McElroy, teacher (601) 681-6615.

- Hernando Church, Hernando — beginning October 22 (7-9 p.m.). Barry Tweedy, teacher (662) 429-6361.

- North Greenwood Church, Greenwood — beginning October 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Tommy Smith, teacher (662) 453-2801. Barry Bouchillon, Assistant Teacher, 662-453-5935.

- Louisville — Billy Bowie, teacher (662) 773-6246. Call for location and time.

- Brookhaven — beginning October 22 (7-9 p.m.). Mark Hamilton, teacher (601) 894-5848. Call for location.

- Tri-County Association Office, Columbia — beginning October 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Brad Day, teacher (601) 297-9699.

- Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport — beginning October 22 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Anthony Turner, teacher (228) 863-5096.



NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$135.00. A \$60.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

The eight courses are Song Leading; Worship Planning; Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch; Reading Music: Harmony/Melody; Hymnology; Music Administration/Staff Relations; Survey of Music Resources; Class Voice.

These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches. For more information, contact Jimmy McCaleb at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Lives saved by World Hunger Fund gifts

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — On Aug. 15, an 8.0-magnitude earthquake 90 miles outside of Lima, Peru, shook the countryside and left approximately 33,000 people without shelter and food. Baptists immediately came to their aid. Missionaries on the ground and others from the United States gathered to feed and comfort the Peruvians.

Wayne Brinkley of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) set up community kitchens to feed families in a city a few hours from Lima. A preliminary relief team assessed needs in the earthquake areas to bring relief to smaller communities. Within days, a system to feed thousands through World Hunger Funds was in place and Southern Baptist volunteers were in place to assist in this effort.

On the other side of the world a few days later, another disaster occurred. The area around Bihar, India, was caught off guard in what was called the severest flood in living memory. Once again, World Hunger Funds allowed Southern Baptists to respond rapidly.

Southern Baptist missionaries and local believers surveyed the flooding conditions, then quickly put into effect a plan to bring food to those in need. The survey trip revealed about 1,000 families stranded and in desperate need of food.

Food packets were filled with ready-to-eat items designed to provide the maximum nourishment possible. A small group of nearby Christians banded together to get food to those stranded, who otherwise might have starved before floodwaters receded.

In three days, because of Southern Baptists' gifts to the World Hunger Fund, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and Cooperative Program, the missionaries and Indian believers packaged and distributed food to families in four of Bihar's flooded villages.

"Fortunately, through Baptist relief, we have the resources to do something," said Elvin Trueb (not his real name), a Christian serving in Bihar. "Even though

there are not a lot of local resources at our disposal, God gave us what we needed and what we'd be able to handle."

Nearly 190 other international hunger relief projects were carried out in 2006 because Southern Baptists gave six million dollars in financial gifts to help feed hungry people overseas.

Southern Baptists gave another \$1.4 million that was distributed to 2,200 hunger ministries in North America: 3.5 million meals were provided and over 30,000 professions of faith were reported.

Donors may designate contributions for either overseas or domestic use. However, monies collected without restrictions through the World Hunger Fund



GONE IN SECONDS — Most of the one-story adobe homes in Ica, Peru, were destroyed by the Aug. 15 earthquake. Residents will salvage as many bricks as possible to rebuild their homes, while Southern Baptists pour relief supplies into the area. (BP photo by Jim Brown)

are distributed with 80% to international projects and 20% for ministries in North America.

Gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund have provided dairy cows to a war-torn area of Central and Eastern Europe to create long-term employment opportunities through milk. A three-month food supply was given to thousands of elderly in Serbia to help them survive a harsh winter.

Southern Baptist dollars also provided thousands of bags of maize to families in Africa affected by drought and famine.

The World Hunger Fund enables Southern Baptists to respond quickly and strategically to needs. Five important characteristics distinguish it from other agencies that specialize in hunger relief efforts.

- One hundred percent of each donation goes to a hunger ministry project. This is possible because Southern Baptist personnel already are in place through the Cooperative Program to see

that those in need are served. No hunger funds are used for administration or overhead.

- All of the projects have an intentional spiritual strategy.
- All of the projects have "on the ground" accountability.
- Southern Baptists are a part of the projects from the very beginning.

- Southern Baptists are involved for the full term of the project and sometimes beyond. Each project is designed, coordinated, supervised and evaluated.

- Hunger funds are used only for meeting food-related needs, such as assisting people with buying and growing food and using it properly, as well as to teach nutrition and how to avoid malnutrition.

- Along with the physical needs met through each of these projects, the Gospel is shared, Bibles are distributed, and local Christians are engaged to meet the spiritual needs of the people receiving hunger funds.

For more information, visit www.worldhungerfund.com.

Palestinian believer killed

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Believers in Gaza are mourning the loss of a Baptist leader killed during the Oct. 6-7 weekend. It is believed he died for taking a stand for his faith. Rami Ayyad, 29, a prominent member of Gaza Baptist Church and manager of a Christian bookstore owned by the Palestinian Bible Society, was kidnapped Oct. 6 shortly after he had closed the store for the day. His body was found the following day about a mile from the store. No one has claimed responsibility for his death. He had been shot twice and struck with a blunt object. Ayyad leaves behind a wife, Pauline, who is pregnant with their third child, and two children under the age of 3. A couple of days prior to his death, Ayyad had told his wife he had noticed people following him. Local believers are shocked and shaken by Ayyad's death, a fellow Baptist worker said. "He was the guy that if anything [in the church] needed to be done, he did it. He was known as a peacemaker." In recent months, tensions between Muslims and Christians have escalated. The Bible Society store was attacked last spring when a bomb was detonated at the door of the building, damaging the first floor. No one was injured. Other believers have been robbed and threatened in recent months, but this is the first known kidnapping and murder of a Christian in the Gaza area. It is estimated that only 2,000 evangelical Christians live among the 1.5 million people who populate the Gaza Strip. The majority is Muslim. Less than one percent claim to be Christian. Of that percentage, most are Greek Orthodox.



Ayyad

Looking back

10 years ago

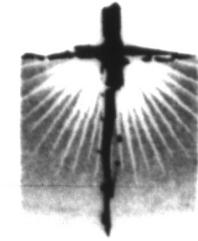
Ministers who have cellular phones consider the devices "time-savers," according to Bill Reed, minister of education at Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala. "It enables me to do a better and more efficient job," he says.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptists reach more than 70% of their \$40 million goal in the Mississippi Mission Endowment Campaign. "We can be proud of our churches," said Harry Vickery, of Greenville, general campaign manager. A total of \$27,875,830.95 has been pledged so far.

30 years ago

Mississippi College enrollment reaches 1425 for the fall semester, according to Troy M. Mohon, the Baptist-affiliated school's registrar.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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RETREAT MINING

Having never lived in coal mining country and having only known a few people who have ever been involved in coal mining, I have virtually no knowledge of that industry. In fact, my knowledge of coal mining could be multiplied many times and still not fill a thimble. During August 2007, the news repeatedly focused on the six coal miners who had been trapped in the mine in Huntington, Utah. After days of working to rescue the six, another tragedy took place: three of the rescue workers were killed and some others were injured. During that time miners, engineers, supervisors, and mine owners talked about what was taking place some 1,800 feet under the ground. They were drilling holes from the top of the mountain and working through the piles of debris that had clogged up the mineshaft in an effort to get to the men with oxygen, food, and supplies if they were still alive. During that time I saw some people being interviewed who talked about a mining process of which I had no knowledge at all. I had never even heard of it. They said one of the things that they were doing in that mine was retreat mining. During the interviews, the news people were apparently as clueless as I was and so they asked for an explanation of retreat mining.

Basically, if I understand their explanation, as the coal was being mined and taken out they would leave what amounted to columns of coal or pillars that would hold up the roof or the ceiling. After they had mined all they could as they were backing out of the mineshafts and openings, they would then mine those columns of coal taking them out



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

nobody else is going to be benefited or blessed from the product of that mineshaft.

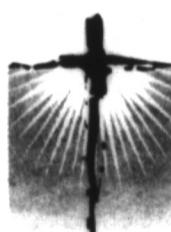
Have you ever had an occasion to see that kind of retreat mining in a church? Maybe it was at a business meeting or maybe over some personal hot button issue. There are times when it seems as though believers would rather wreck the entire Kingdom of God than for something contrary to their personal preference to take place. I have never gotten used to the emotional outbursts that come from congregations who get upset because of a tree being cut, a bush being trimmed, a song being sung, an instrument being played, a sermon being too long, or a pastor's visit being too short. I am not talking doctrinal issues or theological truths; I am talking about letting the ceiling fall and the work crumble because of personal preferences.

One final observation of how retreat mining/ministry seems to take place is when we are not willing to pay the price and are always searching for the easy way. It is not popular, but it never has been popular to call for the kind of commitment that stretches us, demands of us, and maybe takes all of us. Our Lord Jesus did the very opposite in every way of retreat ministry. He moved forward into the will of God. He always kept His heart fixed on the eternal needs of others, and He was willing to pay the ultimate price all the way to the cross. He said, "If any man will come after me to be my disciple, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me daily" (Luke 9:23). That was His call to ministry, and still is.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Pass Road Church, Gulfport, will host Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames Oct. 26-30, 7 p.m. Free admission; a love offering will be taken. Groups of 15 or more can make reservations at (228) 863-1697.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

Enterprise Church, Liberty, will dedicate its new fellowship hall and kitchen Oct. 21. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and dedication service, 1:30 p.m. Alton Foster, speaker.

First Church, Horn Lake, was named a Church of Excellence for October by the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health and the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Seminary. The joint initiative highlights growing churches at a time when 89% of Southern Baptist churches are plateaued or declining.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

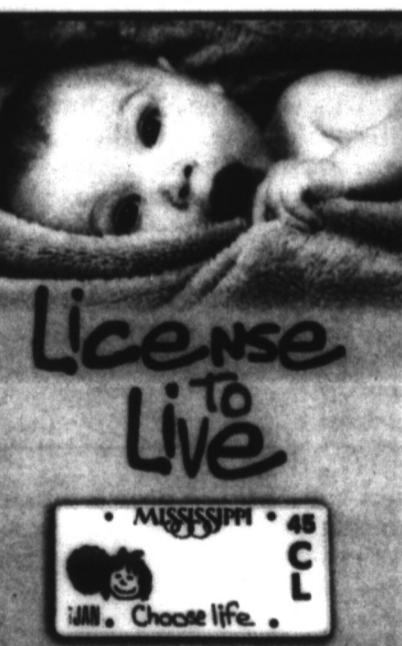
1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Correction

In the October 4 issue of Housetops, the name of Immanuel Church, Grenada, was spelled incorrectly due to a typesetting mistake. The Baptist Record regrets the error.



Buy a Tag and Help Women Choose Life!

Many women feel overwhelmed when facing an unplanned pregnancy. But there are safe places in Mississippi for these women to consider their options: Mississippi's pregnancy resource centers.

By purchasing a *Choose Life* tag, you will be supporting pregnancy resource centers across Mississippi in helping meet the physical, emotional and medical needs of women.

Grant Mississippi's uniform babies a "License to Live" by helping their mothers "Choose Life." Simply take your current tag to your local tag office and order a new *Choose Life* tag for just \$31. Your new tag will be mailed to you. It's that easy.

So, provide a "License to Live" through your car tag choice.

Choose Life!

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Leflore Church, Grenada County, is hosting a Harvest Festival Oct. 31, 5:30 p.m., featuring games, country store, a cakewalk, and a costume contest (no scary costumes, please.)

First Church, Crystal Springs, will host Page Hughes for "Seasons of a Woman's Life" Oct. 26, 7-9 p.m. and Oct. 27, 9 a.m.-noon. Cost, \$15. For information and registration, call (601) 892-1149.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Tinker Bells Handbell Choir, First Church, Plantersville



2. National Grandparents Day, Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto



3. Deacon Ordination, Williamsville Church, Kosciusko

1. The Tinker Bells children's handbell choir from First Church, Plantersville, went on a tour Aug. 31-Sept. 3, playing at Orchard Church, Mobile, Ala. And Bethany Church, Whynot. The choir has also played at nursing homes in Tupelo.
2. Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, recently celebrated National Grandparents Day. Shown are the participants.
3. Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, licensed Robert Lawrence to the ministry Sept. 9. Shown are Lawrence and pastor Junior Davis.

4. First Church, Lyman, will host Mike Upright, "The Southern Gentleman," in concert Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m.
5. Ridgecrest Church, Madison, is sponsoring The Greatest Gift: Preparing Your Children to Survive and Thrive in Today's Culture, Sundays, Oct. 21, 28, and Nov. 4, and 11, 6 p.m. It will be taught by Stuart Kellogg, president and general manager, WAPT-TV in Jackson. Pre-register at mccool@rcbc.org or (601) 853-1090, ext. 30.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

ASMC0ZS HLS ECID CR
HLW ESAGYTH; RCA ITHC
HLSS, C DCAN, NC O
DORH IB FW ECID.

BEYDF SOPLHW-EOV:RCIA

Clue: V = X

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Nahum One: Seven.

"Well done..."

MATTHEW 25:21

Now, even more churches can receive retirement assistance

GuideStone
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Big help for smaller churches

The Mission/Church Assistance Fund provides financial assistance for ministers of smaller Southern Baptist missions and churches.

Under this ministry, a \$50 monthly contribution is made by GuideStone directly to the retirement account of an eligible minister. These contributions can continue for up to 60 months of eligibility, providing a minister up to \$3,000 in total retirement contributions over a five-year period. These benefits were enhanced this year to better serve our ministers of churches and missions with smaller budgets.

Missions, churches and ministers must meet three criteria to be eligible:

- ※ A minister must receive taxable income from a Southern Baptist church.
- ※ The church must have an annual budget of less than \$75,000.
- ※ The church must make monthly retirement plan contributions of 2% or more of the minister's compensation in the first year.

To learn more about the Mission/Church Assistance Fund, please visit our booth at your convention. While you're there, pick up a copy of Dr. O.S. Hawkins' new book, *Antology*.

You can also call 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) or visit www.GuideStone.org/MCAF for more information.

10/07

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



6. Sliger ordained to ministry, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian

6. Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian, ordained Bradford Sliger to the ministry Sept. 9. Shown are Debra Sliger, Sliger, and pastor Gilbert Eaves.

7. West McComb Church, McComb, recently broke ground on their new 9000 sq. ft. preschool building. Shown, from left, are Kyle Williams, Paul Jackson, Tim Stamps, Stan McMorris, Pete Reeves, Allen Turnage, AMD Steve Clark, and pastor Vann Windom.



7. Groundbreaking, West McComb Church, West McComb

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Ackerman Church, Ackerman: Revival, Oct. 21-24; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Henderson, speaker; Billy Bowie, music; Danny Irvin, pastor.

Ethel Church, Ethel: 110th Anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 21; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and afternoon singing; Dwight Brown, speaker; Greg Spencer, pastor; for more information call (662) 674-9290 or 582-2407.

First Church, Durant: Homecoming, Nov. 4; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., followed by worship and fellowship lunch; Ed McDaniel, pastor.

First Church, Greenwood: Revival, Oct. 21-24; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon (light lunch provided) and 6:30 p.m.; Ben Yarber, speaker; Monty Bounds, music; Joe Pate, pastor.

First Church, Itta Bena: Homecoming, Nov. 4; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by pot luck lunch; Doyle Cummings, speaker; Andy Cummings, music; Ren Smith, pastor.

First Church, Oloh: Homecoming, Oct. 21; services, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Scott Smith, speaker; Rick Carter, music.

Goss Church, Columbia: Centennial, Nov. 3-4; Sat., fish fry, 4 p.m.; Sun., breakfast, 9:45 a.m. and services concluding 1:30 p.m. with a time capsule and balloon release; for more information, call (601) 736-9563; Mark McArthur, pastor.

Hamilton Church, Benton-Tippah Association: Revival, Nov. 4-9; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Hamilton, speaker; Donnie Schuman, pastor.

Hebron Church, Panola: Revival, Oct. 26-28; Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.; Paul Middleton, speaker; Terry Tribble, pastor.

Holly Church, Alcorn Association: Revival, Nov. 4-7; Ryan Fontenot, speaker; Brent Collier, music; John Boler, pastor; for information, call (662) 286-3474.

Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg: Centennial anniversary, Oct. 27-28; Sat., celebration meal at Lamar Christian School, 5 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; Sun., worship led by pastor David Williamson; for information, call (601) 264-2427.

Leesburg Church, Morton: Homecoming, Nov. 4; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Jerry File, speaker; Jeff Jones, music.

Liberty Church, Liberty: Revival, Nov. 4-7; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; Clay Campbell, music; James Sadler, pastor.

Chunky Church, Chunky: 42nd homecoming and revival, Oct. 21-25; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and afternoon services; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Gary Thorne, music; for information, call (601) 655-8223 or 655-8296; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven: Revival, Oct. 21-24; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, speaker; Todd McDaniel, music; Tim McCaffrey, pastor.

New Hope Church, Foxworth: Tent crusade, Oct. 21-25; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Melvin Mordecai, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music; a love offering will be received.

North Long Beach Church, Long Beach: Revival, Nov. 4-7, 7 p.m.; Tom Stacey, speaker; Gary Throne, music.

Sandersville Church, Jones County: 125th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 28; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by luncheon, and 1:15 p.m.; Tim Sanford, pastor and speaker; Bob White, music.

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville: One-night revival, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.; prayer service, 6:30 p.m.; Junior Hill, speaker; Shannon D. Marshall, pastor; call (601) 795-4638 for information.

Mt. Vernon Church, Newton: Homecoming, Oct. 21; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Bill Hutto, speaker; Steve Pouncey, pastor.

White Oak Church, Smith County: 165th anniversary and homecoming, Nov. 4; morning service, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; W.G. Dowdy, speaker; Joe Wood, music.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FULL-TIME BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR, FBC of Noel is seeking a conservative SBC pastor. Parsonage available. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 510, Noel, MO 64854 or email wayne26el@earthlink.net.

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SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL/PART-TIME children minister at Truitt Memorial Baptist Church. Please send resume to the attention of Dennis Stringer, 3705 Old Brandon Rd., Pearl, MS 39208 or contact the church office at (601) 939-2975.

FBC, LAKE, MISS., IS SEEKING FULL-TIME minister of youth. Please send resumes to FBC, P.O. Box 157, Lake, MS 39092.

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION needed: First Baptist Church, Boyle, Miss., is currently seeking a full-time minister of music and education. More details available. Contact us at fbcboyle@

cableone.net. Send resumes via email or P.O. Box 218, Boyle, MS 38730.

NESHOBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is seeking an Associational Director of Missions. Resumes or other correspondence, may be sent to Gene Dobbs, P. O. Box 416, Philadelphia, MS 39350, no later than October 31.

THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION is seeking qualified applicants for an accounting position(s). Accounting degree & trust accounting experience preferred. Please send resume, complete with references, salary history, & pastor's recommendation, to MBF personnel administration, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Please visit our website at www.msbfoundation.org for more information about the Foundation.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Heart of the Matter

Matthew 5:21-32

By Alice Smith

Jesus always gets to the heart of the matter and in this lesson he cuts deep, swiftly and surely. He is continuing to speak to us concerning His righteousness; a righteousness not like the pharisaical practices of the day, but true righteousness. His righteousness is of the heart.

This is a very difficult lesson. We will look at the subjects of murder, adultery, and divorce.

As we read the straightforward words of Jesus regarding murder, we can't imagine that we could be guilty of such a thing. We are dumbstruck at the words we read:

You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. (22) But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.

ment. Matthew 5:21-22a (HCSB).

If we experience feelings of great anger toward another to the point that we are consumed by our thoughts, we will find ourselves dwelling on the hate so much that it seriously affects our relationships. This anger is not the fleeting moments of temper that we all have, it is a far more serious and damaging thing. If we allow the feelings to stay in our hearts too long, they become a part of who we are and consume us and we become bitter and hardened.

Jesus shocked us with these words to warn us of this wrongness of evil thoughts and that these thoughts can lead to terrible results. Physical murder is a final and horrible thing. Jesus warned us that harboring evil thoughts in our heart



Smith

toward another, harms us and affects us spiritually. So, if we are guilty of this sin, what are we to do?

The answer is in Verse 23-24: *"So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."* Go and be reconciled. Jesus will give you the strength to do that.

In verses 27-32, Jesus speaks on adultery and divorce in the same straightforward manner. These subjects hit too close to home for far too many of us. It would be surprising if there was any person that has not been touched by these two situations either personally, or involving someone close to them. If you are one of those who have not, you are fortunate indeed. These are hurtful subjects, involving much pain.

Concerning adultery, Jesus warns us, in these verses, that we must consciously guard our hearts against temptation. This directive from Him applies not just to adultery, but to all areas of sin in our lives. Be realistic. Recognize your weaknesses and the human nature to sin and determine, before the situation arises, that you will stay true to God's commandments, that you will have the strength to say no to the temptation and then do whatever it takes to avoid the sin. There is much pain in sin, but remember that all sin will be forgiven if there is repentance in the heart of the sinner.

On the subject of divorce, Jesus, again, speaks firmly and seriously.

He wants to protect us from the pain and agony that awaits us in this experience. Divorce and the dissolution of a marriage usually affect more people than just the man and woman who are divorcing. Children may be involved, as well as extended family and friends. As Christians, we are aware of the seriousness of

the permanent commitment that should encompass our union with another.

Marriage takes a lot of hard work. We have a responsibility to each other to be sensitive to needs, faithful, and committed. However, some of us may find ourselves in the midst of the nightmare of divorce. We must pray, support each other, and seek the loving arms of Jesus' comfort, forgiveness and restoration.

God said certain things are wrong. To disobey God brings consequences to us that will hurt. He makes that clear. We must have standards (laws) in order to be protected from hurt and to help us not hurt others. We cannot come before His throne of mercy until we confess our sins and ask for cleansing of all our unrighteousness; and still, all our righteousness is as filthy rags. King David cried out to the Lord, "Create in me a clean heart, O Lord!" We must do the same. His answer is, "Yes."

Smith is a member of First Church, Jackson.

others of transgressing sacred traditions, while they themselves transgressed the very Word of God. You and I must guard against accusing others of trampling our sacred cows, while we ourselves are transgressing God's Word.

Second, a "genuine" hypocrite is one who excels at conforming externally without being transformed internally. The Pharisees, no doubt, were religious folks who excelled at playing the game of religion. They excelled at jumping through the hoops of religious appearance. Though they looked the part externally, internally their hearts were blind to the ways of God (Matthew 15:14). The Pharisees were hypocrites because they thought godliness was a matter of clean hands rather than a pure heart. Jesus emphasizes, however, that genuine purity is a matter of the heart (Matthew 15:18, 19). Our endeavor to practice genuine purity should not be a futile exercise in appearance, but a daily surrendering of the heart to God.

Smith is pastor of Bethel Church, Monticello.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Practice Genuine Purity

Matthew 15:1-20

By Michael Smith

I rise today in defense of the Church. There are those in our communities that accuse the Church as being nothing more than "a bunch of hypocrites!" If by describing the church as "a bunch of hypocrites" our accusers imply that the church has lost her passion for the lost, they are right. Most church members remain too silent when it comes to telling others about Jesus. The church has lost her urgency for the task of disciple making.

Frankly, I do not think that our accusers are presenting the evidence of imperfection, non-distinctiveness, or indifference to substantiate their charge of hypocrisy against the church. Those in our communities that accuse the church as being nothing more than "a bunch of hypocrites" imply that the church is filled with people who are merely playing the part. Jesus often referred to the Pharisees as "hypocrites" because they played the game of religion well. By all outward appearances, they looked like godly



Smith

people; however, their hearts were far from God (Matthew 15:8). A hypocrite is a person who pretends to be something they he or she is not. Thus, our accusers accuse us of pretending to be something that we are not. In my estimation, most of the people

who fill our Mississippi Baptist churches on any given Sunday are genuine in their faith. Most of the precious people who sit in the pews of Mississippi Baptist churches are earnest in their love for the Lord.

Though most of us are not "a bunch of hypocrites," we can be subject to hypocritical tendencies. We would, therefore, do well to guard against hypocrisy. In our lesson passage, Jesus exposes "genuine" hypocrisy by describing the hypocritical behavior of the Pharisees. Jesus describes two marks of "genuine" hypocrisy. First, a "genuine" hypocrite is one who would accuse others of transgressing sacred traditions, while they themselves transgress the Word of God. The Pharisees accused the disciples

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

THE BAPTIST
Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Homecoming, Tylertown Church, Tylertown



2. Pennies collected, Macedonia Church, Union County



3. New sign dedication, Enon Church, Jayess

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Remember, a call to ministry is a call to prepare ... consider Mid-America

1. **Tylertown Church, Tylertown**, held its homecoming Oct. 7 in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of Tylertown; David Michel, speaker. The congregation assembled on the front lawn of the church in the form of a cross for the photo, followed by a potluck lunch. Buddy Day, pastor.

2. **Macedonia Church, Union County**, recently made a contribution to the Memorial to the Missing, Jackson. Pastor Louie Williams and Administrative Pastor Tommy Peters delivered five bags of pennies, totaling \$1250. Shown are Williams and Peters.

3. **Enon Church, Jayess**, held a sign dedication Sept. 9. The sign was made possible by donations in the memory of Brooks Huhn.

4. The GAs of **First Church, Terry**, led a mission project to collect towels for Isaiah House, a rehabilitation facility in South Jackson. After the presentation, the girls were treated to a spa night. Shown are the participants. John Pace, pastor.

5. **Grandview Church, Pearl**, exceeded its goal of \$1200 for the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions. In recognition, pastor Wade Chappell is shown along with several WOM members wearing the 2007 State Missions hat.

6. **West Ripley Church, Ripley**, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Shown, from left, are charter members: Shirley Conley, Audra Glidewell, Milton Wilbanks, Joyce Clemmer, and Pat Hamilton. Randy P. Latch, pastor.



4. GAs collect towels, First Church, Terry



5. Margaret Lackey goal exceeded, Grandview Church, Pearl



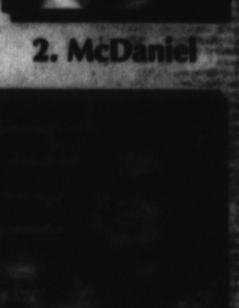
6. West Ripley Church, Ripley

STAFF CHANGES

1. **Furr Church, Pontotoc County**, welcomes Harold "Taz" Irby as youth minister/associate pastor. Shown are Irby, Colleen, Hanna, and Jacob Irby.



2. **First Church, Durant**, has called Ed McDaniel as pastor. He comes from North Winona Church with his wife Libby. He pastored First Durant previously from 1973-1981.



3. **Gracewood Church, Southaven**, has called Barry Baker as pastor effective Sept. 23.



1. Irby and family

Shown are White, wife Elizabeth, and daughter Mary Frances.

4. **Billy Murphy, Associational Missions Director for Lamar Association**, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. A reception honoring him will be held Oct. 28 at First Church, Purvis. Murphy will be available for interim supply, revivals, etc.



5. **Black Jack Church, Vaughan**, has called David White as pastor.

5. White and family